

As also the Arraignement, Conniction, and Execution of George  
Iarvis Priest after the order of Saint Benedicts, who which  
suffered death on Monday the eleventh  
of April. 1608.



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THE APPREHENSION, AR-  
raignment, and execution of Elizabeth Abbor,  
*alias Cebrooke, for a cruell and horrible murther,*  
committed on the body of Mistris Killing-  
worth in S. Creechurch Parish neere Aldgate  
in London.



The calamity of this age wherein we live, and the  
cruelty of vs, who professe our selues Christians  
one to another, who in stead of pity, pay oppression:  
who in stead of charity render cruelty: who for  
loue yelde dislike: and who for mercy pay these  
manifest offences: as slaunders, thefts, and mur-  
thers. euen to the liues of those, who receiued them  
to their armes of hospitality; hath made me find tyme to set pen to  
this discourse.

There liued not long since in Creechurch parish nere Aldgate in Lon-  
don, a widow, called Mistris Killingworth. the reputation of whose life  
I meane not to touch, since mens tongues are like an instrument made  
of many strings; who as they are many in number, so are they as se-  
uerally different in sound, some high, some meane, some base, all spra-  
king according to the pleasure of the musitian who hath them in tuning;  
so in the conditions of men, there is none how euer their liues be infi-  
nite in euils, but haue some who report in their praises, nor none how  
euer their maners be woorthie & gracious (deseruing record euen in the  
noblest Chronicle) but find slanderers, who are busie in their reproch.  
But for this Mist. Killingworth, it is said, she had bin the wife of three  
husbands, and now contented her selfe to liue widdowed by the death  
of the last: what hir life and obedience had bene towards all of them,

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during the time of her marriage, I rather leave to opinion & the generall report of her neighbours, then give it to the report of my pen: only touching one infirmity which she had; (especially now toward her latter time) since it is both a generall disease that raignes in our age, and was an excuse to her murderer even in the instant of her tragedy; may live as an example to this present world and succeeding times, and is so proper for my discourse: I intreat thee Reader to take this for my excuse; in the handling of it I am no way willing to bite the dead, but give it to him as a medicine for himselfe.

This Mistris Killingworth hath beene often times knowne to come home to her house, having abroad so abused her body in drinking (a disease most abominable in women, since it is so detestable in men) that shee hath beene found by her neighbours wallowing unseemly on the ground in her owne soyle (a habit common amongst drunkards) and a custome that should be only proper to swine and not to people of honest conversation, her neighbours then (especially the women whom for womanhood sake it most concerned to be a helpe to her infirmity) have come often thither, (after notice given them) either by seeing her come home, or by hearing her groane, while she lay in such extremities, here raised her and seene her lodged in her bed, and so leaving her have not knowne her stirring abroade the next day.

There is especiall note to be taken, that shee kept no servant at all, although reputed to bee of a reasonable and sufficient substance; and the reason was, that both during the time of her marriage and the continuance of her widowhood shee was so sharpe in blows, and pinching in victuals, that few at first could & at last none would tarry with her.

But to our purpose. Mistris Killingworth having been thus often times found and so often times comforted by her neighbours that they brought her to her bed, to y<sup>e</sup> which shee had not power to bring her selfe, they at their going from her, used to shut the doore, and throw in the key, (thinking as indeede it was,) the best security for her selfe, and the gods shee peeste, and so left her to take her full sleepe, awake and arise at her owne pleasure. Sometimes th<sup>y</sup> sawe her not the next

day



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day, no no; the next day following, when at other times, she was knowne to be as painfull in her busines (her trade being a Temp-  
ler, as any woman of the best seeming sincerity could be.

But it is commonly scene, there is seldome a mishap, which succedeth not another, so is it rare to see one sinne, which beggetteth not a successoz: and so in Mistris Killingworth, for after shee was awake from her drowner, when shee should haue had reason to commend, and haue bin thankfull for the loue of her neighbours, she taught her selfe a kind of peruerfines to condemne them, first by reporting of th. m, that they were more busie then needfull, next, that they came to prie into her rather then to comfort her, and last, which was most hateful, of al that vnder pretence of comming to do her good, they were unfriendly th. enes and pilfered away that shee had. This vnthankfulness of hers, in requitall of the paines bestowed vpon her friendly neighbours, so animated their opinions against her, that after notice taken of her ingratitude, they from thence left her, as ~~as~~ full Physitians do their franticke patients, who not being able to gouerne them, either by doctrine or perswasion, giue them ouer wholly to their liues destruction or to their owne cure. & euen so did these neighbours this mistris Killingworth: for now some of them, especially of the better sort, scorning to be thus abused, others repining to be thus neglected, and in brasse all disdayning that their former loue and labour had no more regard, but to be answered with her reproch, they from thence (when the same occasion was offered them) left her to bee her owne helpe, and which after proued to be her vntimely destruction. Here reader I aduise thee to take note, that if in reading this, thy conscience tell thee, thou art toucht with the same sin, (for I haue heard it multiplies in England) or if thou knowest any of thy familiar acquaintance, stubborne in the same offence, perswade them; and reioyne thy selfe, lest that Mistris Killingworths, be but like a flash of lightning sent from her, who forgetteth thunder, when the bolt and stroke thereof may hit vpon thee.

But to the murder. Mi. Killingworth hauing thus continued in disdain with some, & dislike with others, yet through their modesty so concealed, y<sup>e</sup> it caried no general knowledge, either to her especial friends, or

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those whom she wrought vnto, with their silence & hir perseuerance, much time past, when it happened about the middelt of January last, one Elizabeth Abbot, alias Cebrooke came to haue entertainment and be lodged in hir house; the manner of hir acquaintance with hir, is as yet by this Elizabeth Abbots confession vnknewne, and by the others suddaine death pzeuented; but thus much for certaine is, the very day befoze hir death, it was hir chance to come to a citizens house in Coznehill, where being kindly welcome, the Wiftris & she fell into some friendly conference together; in which hauing past some time vpon the suddaine Wiftris Killingworth start vp, offering hastily to take hir leaue of hir, making the reason of hir so suddaine departure this: am not I a good huswife, quoth she, to stay heere so long, hauing a stranger lodged in my house: who I haue moze reason to suspect then trust, for in my conscience, quoth shee, I thinke she be with child, notwithstanding, I take such delight in hir pretty odde country talking, that hauing no body but my selfe, she seemes much comfort to me; then the citizens wife demanded of hir, how she durst, or why she was so vnwise to entertaine a stranger to lodge with hir, the world being so bad, and the condition of people so vncertaine: whereunto she replied: that she trusted hir the rather, for that she was commended vnto hir by an especiall friend, whose name and the streete he dwelt in, she then told; but from thence to this Abbots triall this, citizens wife could by no meanes bring hir selfe to remembre: it: besides quoth Wiftris Killingworth, she hath often told me she hath a husband, who is a taylor now working in the Strand, who though I haue not yet seen, she promises me, wil one of these dayes bring him home, and we shall be merry together. So with this & such other conference leaue being taken betweene them, they parted.

Being thus gone home from this citizens wife on Tuesday the twentieth of January, on the morrow following she sent this lodger of hers, to another citizens wife in Coznehill being one of her worke-mistresses, to send her some stekes for bands which she had to make for her, the which by a token she brought from mistris Killingworth were deliuered hir; and no especiall note she toke of hir, but giuing moze regard to the token she brought, then hir pzeence, dispaht hir with hir message, onely being examined after the death of mistris Killingworth,

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Killingworth what she could tell for his discovery, it was a little to describe his favour, but made good mistress Killingworths words before, which was, that she spoke broad and somewhat northerly. But this wensday night coming on when this his horrid intent, took fatal execution, one mistress Sutton keeping a victualling house at the next doore, from which epist. Killingworth was accustomed to fetch his ordinary provision of bread and drinke, the maister and the mistress that night supping abroad, at one of their friends houses, it is testified by their servant, that there was that night fetched from him, by this Abbot to mistress Killingworths house, more store of bread and bere then had ordinarily bin, and more then might well suffice to content them being but two, for one meales satisfaction, whereby she guessed, there was at that time some extraordinary provision in mistress Killingworths house, and that some strangers or friends of hers did that night sup with him, so endeavouring painefully about his business, it past from him without further thought of it, onely by this Abbots coming often for drinke, she had time to take especiall note whereby to know him, more then any other had; yet going from home to home about his business, about tenne of the clocke, she reports that she heard mistress Killingworth complaine, as if she had bene sicke, when his maister and mistress coming home presently vpon her hearing of this, she told them what she had heard, and that she supposed mistress Killingworth was not well, which they perceining to be her old sickness, and knowing as before, his unkindnesse to those had used her kindly, answered they knew it was but her old disease, she would be well againe to morrow, and so went to their rest, some two chambers from his house, so the maid bringing his maister and mistress to bed; and going to his one lodging, which was the next wall to mistress Killingworths, while she was making him vnbred heard some moving of stoles in the next chamber, and so being wearied with the former dayes labour, some fell asleep.

About twelue a clocke a Dutch-mans maide ouer the way right against her house, heard her giue a great groane, and at last spake out thus: O Lord that I die thus and neuer a neighbor come at me! whereupon the maide opening the casement, call'd to him, and asked him how he did, when this Abbot came to the window, (before which was hung

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hung a thicke cloth, so as the maid could not see into the house for it, where at other times the casements were so neere and opposit one to the other, that any of that but. humans house could haue evidently perceived what she had done within) and answered, that God helpe hir, Mistress Killingworth was not well, it was but hir old disease, shee would most carefully looke to hir, & she doubted not but she would be well againe when shee had slept, so the honest seruant praying God to comfort hir, was satisfied, and for that time heard no more of it.

W<sup>ere</sup> Reader mayest thou appoyne the wonderfull iudgements of God, who giues to euery offence his due punishment, and makes our sinnes like fire the which consumes it selfe in his owne gloze: Drunkennes was hir sinne, drunkennes was hir punishment: the neglect of hir neighbours was hir sinne, and their neglect toward hir for that sinne, was an excuse to hir murtherer and a fartherer to hir death: for had she beene thankfull to them for their paines to hir, and not answered their kindenes with despight and slander, they at this time as befoze when they heard shee was ill, and supposed it to be but hir old discomposure, had come in to be hir comfort, had apprehended hir murtherer, and no doubt had presented hir death, but by these helpes the diuell preuailed: hir sinne by hir owne couise was punished: and I pray you suppose that she is murdered.

On thursday morning then, about foure of the clocke, a chare-woman came to washing to the dutch mans house ouer the way, saw a light in Mistress Killingworths window, but saw no body stirring, and so went to hir worke: at fve of the clocke the maid of the alehouse being likewise vp, and about hir busines, and heard hir low window neere the streete let downe, and hir dooze open and shutte, but misdoubted nothing. Thursday wholly passing, and thzough hir custome, which they had knowne hir vse befoze, they suspected nothing till Friday morning, when wondering that they could neither see hir nor this same Abbot stirring, whom, though a stranger, they knew she lodged in hir house; they began now somewhat to mistrust of hir welfare, and demaunded one of the other when they saw hir, when all the circumstances as befoze were recited, of the stozz of Drinke which was fetcht at Mistress Suttons house, of Mistress Suttons maide, hearing hir not well, and of the dutch-mans seruant, who heard hir say, Lord, shall I die

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die thus and neuer a neighbour that I haue come at me: as also of this Abbots answere, and the cloth hanging befoze the window, which vntill that time, she had neuer bene accustomed to haue so, they began now to suspect moze fearefully some danger had happened to her: so sending for the Constable and Officers ere they would attempt any thing themselves, they first knockt very forcibly, but finding no body to answere them, they determined to bryake open the dooze, but afterwards it was otherwaies agreed thus: that one should goe fetch a ladder, by the helpe of which one climbing vp to the window, they might haue knowledge whether shee were in the chamber or no, and if not there, to giue them instructions below, in what manner the chamber was left, the which effected, they might perceiue the bed turned downe as she had lately come out of it, and on the ground: and a lotts space befoze the chimney some stoze of water so haue been spilt, which was after coniectured to be with the quenching of the mantle-tree, which by the violence of the fire which had bene made, was burnt euen to the bryckes, whereupon the Constable sent the Beadle of the ward for the Aldermans Deputy, and with other neighbours got in, and made search all ouer the house for her, but missing her, found all hir apparell, child-bed-linnen, with the best & lightest of hir goods (which hir neighbours knew her to be well stoze withal) carried away, & nothing left but heauy lumber, which was too ponderous for carriage, yet continued carefully searching in euery place, at last a neighbour looking on the ashes in the chimney, found certaine small bones which they put in to a bore: & carried them to my Lord Maiors, who presently vpon view of them sent for a Surgeon, who forthwith satisfied his honour they were the bones of some man or woman which had bene burned: but ere the Aldermans deputy left the house, making further search after they had taken vp the bones, they found behind certaine bryckes which were raised vp to guard the backe of the Chimney, a Locke of her haire tide in her hairelace, and her Nag which went vnder her chinne pinde to it, whereby it was straight coniectured, she was first made drunke, & vice shee was

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properly inclined vnto by disposition, then strangled in her bed, the couerleeds of which were found folded downe, then brought and set vp right in the chimney, there burnt, and so to be consumed to ashes, the windowes also shut in with a cloth; whereby the streame and sauoz which the body would cast, might ascend sozth thozow the sunnell of the chimney. **O** diuellish and not hard of practise! But this about the rest was most strange: that so great and vehement fire which was able to consume the whole body to ashes, had not power to consume that locke of haire, haire lace and chin band, the which was saue from her head, and was defended but with two or thzee tzyckies, but that it should be preserved: that by the colour her neighbours might witnesse it was shee which was burnt; and so as it befitte euery Chzistian to take warning by her ruine, and soz Charities sake to make diligent search soz the apprehension of the murtherer: which in this maner was effected.

The Lord Maior and Iustices of this City, like pzouident Captaines ouer this peacefull common-wealth, and that such an vnheard of murther might not escape vnreruenged, where the thirstines of the Deuill was not satisfied in shedding blood, but must after sacrifice the body of the dead (who now had neither power to complaine noz knowledge to accuse) to the fury of consuming fire, caused diligent enquiry to be made euery way, to haue this worse then woluissh woman apprehended: much search was made, and all diligence vled, but the subtil policy of hir master the Deuill, whom she still continued to serue, as thinking hir yet not villenous enough to be his one, kept hir so pinate now soz the contriuing of after actions, that no search could take hold of her. But the repozte of this murther being here about London in euery tongue, & the cruelty therof sounding in euery eare; it happened that the bayliffe of Burnt wood in Essex comming bp to London with certaine pzisoners did by: at the thzee Runnes without Aldgate, and hearing of this murther, soz there was litle other talke had thereabouts, and that a woman was held in suspicion soz it, as also her person and apparrell described

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to him, bethought himselfe that to his iudgement, such a like woman hee had lately seene about their towne of Burnt-wood; which suspicion of his being giuen to the right honourable the Lord Spald, expedition was made for her apprehension. which Ministers comming thither found that such a like woman had bene there, but gone from thence, after whom pursuit being made euery way there was at the last apprehended at Graues-end, and by the beadle of Aldgate ward who had authoritie from the Lord Spald; to that purpose, she was brought vp to London, where such was the desire of all eyes to see her, that their eyes might beare witnesse if women could bring forth a woman so detestable, as she was, being carryed through the streets, the people that came to behold her were infinite, some cursing her, al railing her, and the most desirous to haue had her presently toynes to peeces as a creature not worthy to continue to her triall; which doubtles the ruder sort (who are like a tempest violent but not lasting,) would haue done, had not the care and many labours of the officers withstode their violence.

But such was the care and prouidence of our worthy Iudges, who on slight presumptions take not away life, that by sending severally for all parties who had seene the suspected murthrer of mistress Killingworth; and aduisedly taken their iudgements whether she were the woman or not, it soon appeared to their granities, that in this sort wherein this wretch was suspected shee was innocent; although they found her, by her owne examination to be a woman of loose life and base condition: yet such was their noble minds & worthinesse: in this case, that, since she had falne into this imprisonment & publike disgrace, for the cause which she was not guiltie of, they had resolued of their charitable beneuolence to haue giuen her in requitall a peece of monie, and so haue conducted her to the place where she was borne. But see the wonderfull workes of God, that the beginning of one sinne should be the reuealing of another: and this Cities care in looking for a murderer, both now discouer a fellow, and help an honest man of the white friers to his goods againe, of which by this woman he was robbed,



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bed, partly undone thereby, but utterly helpless of the recovery of them.

For the great and chiefest cause which made this Valise of Burnt-wood suspect this former apprehended to be mistress Killingworths murderer was a gowne which he had knowne her to sell, and by all description like a gowne of mistress Killingworth; which the neighbours missing in the search repeated this Abbot had carried from mistress Killingworths house, which gowne being brought to London for the neighbours to see, and thereby to haue bene a witnesse against her that if she had not bene a principall, yet she might haue proued a party, if the gowne, as it did not, had proued hers, and inst as the Lord Spaior was ordering money to haue discharged her and so haue sent vnto her friends, the poore man who before was robb came to the sight of the gowne, knew it to be his wiues, vpon which robbery being examined she confest the fact, and the sessions following had her tryall at New-gate, condemned for felonie, but reprieved by the fauour of the bench, and rests there in prison at the mercy of the King.

Them that shall read these testimonies then, and find how strangely God of his infinite iustice, brings offenses to light and the offenders to shame, and finds his owne conscience toucht with this or the like guilt, me thinks he should say to himselfe, O God I will be no more a sinner, for I see no sinne is acceptable vnto thee, and what availeth it vs to commit our actions in darknesse, since the pitchiest night is to thee all one with the purest day: But to our discourse.

This Elizabeth Abbot hauing thus long continued wandering vp and downe light enough in all things but in a burthened conscience, and thinking that so long time had woene her selfe free from all suspicion, shee came with her husband nere vnto a little towne in Surrey two miles wide of Stone-such:

Where lurking afraid in the out part of the towne till night, they came with intent to haue robbd the house of a good honest yeoman, and so farre had furthered their purpose, they had broken  
downe



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do lorne the pæce of a wall for entrance, with the noise of which  
 the good man being awaked misdoubting no lesse, then what in-  
 deed was in action, he caught vp a pitch-fork, as the best weapon  
 which was next him and out of doores he flew, which the thiefe  
 hearing, made his heels his best manhood & took himself to running,  
 the countrey man after him: but what with the extreame darknesse  
 of the night, and the honest man wisely not thrusting himselfe  
 too faire in daunger, the thiefe escaped, and the countrey man came  
 backe againe, who at his returne he found his dogge, which in deed  
 was a part of his waking at the first, as busie and as eager now as  
 befoze the thiefe whom he pursued was fled, for while the coun-  
 trey man was chasing this Abbots huswand, and she thinking  
 to make the aduantage of his absence an escape for her another  
 way, the dogge winding her neuer left chasing her, till from the  
 fure of the masty, & for her one safety, she was faine to leape down  
 into a sawpit. where the curre kept her at full bay till his maister  
 returned, who hearing his dogge continue his forme barking,  
 & he suspecting there had bene no moze thæues but the one which  
 was fled, at least confident that thæues seldome stay when they  
 heare any body stirring, he began to rate his dogge and earnestly  
 to call him in: but all the checking, commanding, or flattering he  
 could vse, could not drawe the dogge, who was so gentle to him  
 befoze, that hee would come to his hand, leaue his office he had  
 toke vpon him of a Cayler or let goe his prisoner, which the  
 countrey man wondring at, toke courage to himselfe, and aduen-  
 tured to draw nere him, whom he found still heating about the  
 sawpit, and wondring what the cuent would be, he thrust his  
 pitch-fork downe two or thre times in severall places. and  
 at the last it lighted vpon this Abbots shoulder, when he per-  
 ceiuing that his fork had grounded vpon somewhat that yel-  
 ded to it, hee cald aloud, who is there, who is there, but  
 no body making answer hee thrust in his fork hard againe,  
 and pierd her in the arme somewhat below her shoulder, where  
 with shee was constrained to cry, when he presently calling for  
 help shee was taken out of the pit, and the next morning, this  
 happening

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happening on Satterday night she was carried to the neereſt Juſtice, being Sir Edward Sanders to be examined: where wee will leaue her, and ſheiw the wonders of God in reuealing this murder by returning towards London.

In Creechurche Parith neere the place where Miſtris Killingworth was murdered, dwels a ſubſtantiall woman, and of honeſt conuerſation, called Miſtris Cox, who the ſame latter-day that this Abbot intended to haue done this robbery in the night, went from London of purpoſe to be merry with a brother of hers an Inne keeper neere Bone-ſuch in Surrey, where being lodged on ſatterday night, and vp to make her ſelfe ready on ſunday morning, ſhee perceiued diuers men with ſorckes and ſtaues, ſhee calling to her brother, demanded of him what the matter was: why ſiſter, quoth hee, nothing but a ſcurvy queane, ſhe is carrying befoze a Juſtice this morning for attempting to rob an honeſt man one of our neighbors laſt night, whereupon ſhe intreated him that at her comming backe he would be a meanes ſhee might ſee her and ſpeake with her, which hee promiſed, as alſo that hee would be a meanes to intreat his neighbours and the Conſtable to bring her into his houſe, that then ſhee might ſee her, and talke with her without diſturbance: and becauſe, quoth Miſtris Coxes brother, I will not faile but be as good as my word. I will goe heare her examination my ſelfe, and bzing both her and my neighbours this way by my perſwaſion, leſt they ſhould carry her to the Iayle befoze they come backe: which promiſe of his he perſormed.

Thus this Elizabeth Abbot hauing bene examined befoze Sir Edward Sanders, touching her life and lining, of which ſhe could make no honeſt account, among other queſtions he demanded of her: what the man was which was with her in this pretended robbery: to whom ſhe answered, he was her husband, and a taylor: then beeing willed to diſconer where hee was, nay, ſhee replied ſuddainely; if hee be eſcaped, why then I care not, all's then well, and if you hang me now, I care not. So for this attempt, which it is thought would haue bene to little purpoſe

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pose to haue taken her life, shee was by vertue of Sir Edwards Mittimus commanded prisoner to the white Lyon in Southwarke: and by the way they tooke Pistris Coxes brothers house to drinke in: where being set in a roome together, Pistris Cox mildeely began to aske her, how shee beeing a woman could bee so hardy to attempt to bzeake open a heule, to robbe and vndo an honest country-man, that liues faithfully by his labour: hearing which, this Abbot replied: why, as I did befoze with my handes; and were it to doe I could as resolutely attempt it againe: vpon which impudent answer, Pistris Cox fixing her eye moze earnestly vpon her, began now to conceiue in her selfe that she had seene her some where, but could by no meanes call to mind where, and thereupon demanded of her in this manner: woman, if I mistake not, I haue seene you some where in London; where, she answered, it might be so in the Strand perhaps: no, quoth Pistris Cox, about Aldgate if I be not deceiued: when, she suddainely replied: (heere note the power of the Diuell, that would make her owne tongue betray her into that mischief of which no man had suspicion of her) O I sound your meaning: you goe about to intrap mee about the woman that was burnt by Aldgate, but you are deceiued in that in faith, as they that did it were deceiued of their expectation: why of what were they deceiued, quoth Pistris Cox? why, quoth shee, I tell you, of their expectation, they lookt for much and had little, she was a good old gentlewoman, and she had bene a proper young gentlewoman: but if you thinke to insnare or intrap me you are deceiued: whereupon, quoth Pistris Cox and other who stood by: surely you were much interested in the villany, that knew so well what profite they made by their murder, and what manner of person the murdered was, and can so readily deliuer it: when shee answered scornfully: Lord, how people may be deceiued, for I tell you, I heard it of a woman at Eutruge some three or foure mile off, and about thre or foure dayes since: where being againe demanded, what woman she was that told her so, and not being able to render a direct answer,

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swere: *Wistris Cox* intreated of the Constable that hee would be a meanes to the Justice she might be sent to be examined at London, for, quoth she, though I for my part am no way able to accuse her, yet I feare we she will proue guilty in the murder of *Wistris Killingworth*: which request of yours, quoth the Constable, you shall not neede further to looke after, for I haue here *Sir Edward Sanders* warrant to commit her prisoner to the white Lyon in South-warke. Where, reader, I pray thee suppose that shee is imprisoned, and that *Wistris Cox* hath made knowne to all the neighbours of *Wistris Killingworth* what hath happened, the neighbours to my Lord Mayor and the Recorder; and on the Monday morning diuers of them repaire to her, to the white Lyon: Before whose coming thither, and indeed as soone as shee was Chambrzed her selfe, shee straight laboured with an old woman there, called *Widdow Bar-chelmew*, to change petticoates with her, offering to doe it without profit, though by the iudgement of any man, hers by the double in value exceeded the old womans, which she giuing notice to the keepers of, they by no meanes would permit her to shift her clothes, of which purpose of hers, finding her selfe intercepted, shee ript off all the lace that was about her cote and bestowed it, shee would neuer confesse where: the purpose of all which was intended to disguise her selfe as much as might be, for shee heard that diuers were coming to see her about *Wistris Killingworths* murder: but Monday morning being come many of the neighbours, as *Wistris Cox*, *Wistris Sutton*, *Wistris Suttons* maid, with severall others came to see her, as also the maid that deliuered the stocks for bands in *Coznhill*; but it was so ordered that against their coming shee was placed amongst other women, to try if they who had sene her before in the time of *Wistris Killingworth* could select her from the rest: both which *Wistris Suttons* maid and the *Schmiffers* maid in *Coznhill* as soone as euer they came into the roome chose her from the rest, crying, this is shee: where on the contrary being shewed the former woman single, they as firmly approved it was not shee.

of Elizabeth Abbot, &c.

On the selfe same Sunday, when this testimonie was taken at the White-lion by the parties afore saide, and they appoynded that this was that Quee creature ( for a woman she was in nothing but in shewe ) that gave this fearefull testimonie to the world, of mistres Killing-worths death. the right Honorable y<sup>e</sup> Lord Mayor, with that most worthy Gentleman Sir Henry Mountegue Recorder of London, accompanied with the Chieffull Shyives, and Maister Justice Dale, sat in the Court vpon Saint Margets-hill, commonly called the Marshalls Court: vpon especial busines for the King, which by their wisdoms dispatched, and by their foreknowledge of the apprehension of this Elizabeth Abbot, they sent for the prisoner, who by the Gaoler of the White-lion was brought before them, and the witnesses examined, who appoynded her to be the woman, but herselfe being questioned, most impudently (as there is no Anne without impudence) utterly denide to haue any knowledge with mistres Killingworth, or any acquaintance in the fault: when the Justice sending her downe, and once againe examining the witnesses charging them, by the care they had of their owne soules, to be well advised, that what they did infer was for truth, they most constantly appoynded their former euidence.

But it happened that mistres Sutton was now belowe, while the other were in question above, and she of her selfe as other y<sup>e</sup> were present, did demand of her seuerall questions, wishing her since the fact was done, and that by euidence it was so apparent she was guilty of it, that she would not  
C now

## The apprehension & Execution

now heap sinne on sinne by the denying of it , but rather cleare her owne conscience, prepare herselfe for repentance, make her selfe fit for Heauen, and satisfie the world, when she continuing obstinately amongst other motions that were then made vnto her, mistress Suttren asked her if she had not a husband: the answere yes, is he not a Tallo? (saies mistress Suttren) I graunt he is ( said the prisoner) did hee not worke in the Strand: yes, and did not you tell mistress Killing-worth so much ( quoth mistress Suttren) I confesse I did answered the murthereesse, which confession of hers, she instantly would haue calbe in, but though the Diuell bee the father of lyes, yet in these cases he is often & authoꝝ of truth, so; he hastens to haue his owne with him, for now he makes her owne tongue speake her owne truth, & thought afterward to deny it againe, yet stood there by her besides mistress Suttren a Chirurgian in this Towne, vertuous and substantiall, as also an honest Statuener, who besides mistress Suttren gaue testimony to my Lord Walsor, Maister Recorder and the rest, of what she had spoken, and that her owne tongue hath aproued the same wordes that mistress Killing-worth the day before her death had deliuered to the Cittizens wife in Cornwell, the approbation was so strong, that she was removed from the White-lyon in South-harke, to the common gaole of New-gate in London, where though she was sent for diuers times before sir Henry Mountegue for further examination she remained there till her time of trial.

Which trial of hers being on Friday the eight of April, shee was arraigned and indighted by the name

of Elizabeth Abbot, &c.

of Elizabeth Abbot late of London spinster, for  
 practising a murder against the body of mistress  
 Killingworth late of London widow: to which  
 indictment, she pleaded not guilty, and put her  
 selfe vpon tryall of God and her Country, for  
 the prooof of which, the aforesaide euidence was  
 produced, namely mistress Killingworths confe-  
 rence with the Citizens wife, which she her selfe  
 there in person approued her wordes to mistress  
 Cox, and the confession of her owne tongue by  
 mistress Suten, others which made good also that  
 she was the woman mistress Killingworth spoke  
 of: then the personall approouances of mistress  
 Suten made and others, who directly took their  
 oathes she was the woman y<sup>e</sup> fetchd dyink from her  
 mistresses house, and the other that it was she and  
 no other fetchd the stocks for bands in her mistresses  
 shop, all which though she denied, it pleased that  
 most worthy Judge Sir Edward Cooke, Lord  
 cheefe Justice of the common pleas. somewhat in  
 this forme, to explyne to the Jury, first that hee had  
 compared mistress Killingworths wordes with  
 the Cittizens wines in Cornwel, and the Cittizens  
 wines euidence with the prisoners owne confession  
 to mistress Suten, and found them all thre not to  
 differ in one syllable, then what can be moze plainer  
 that she is the party, when she her selfe speaks the  
 same wordes mistress Killingworth spoke, againe,  
 that Algate was no sooner named in the Country  
 to her by mistress Cox, but she straight breakes  
 out, as (if suspecting that every shaking lease  
 were one to discouer her) had so ouer charged her  
 guilty conscience, that she must now breake out: oh



## The apprehention & Execution

you go about to intrap mee, about the Gentlewo-  
mans death & was burnt by Algate: further, & she  
did reply, that they which did it, mist of  
their purpose, and being demaunded who should tel  
her so, she answered idly a woman of Luttery, but  
neither knowes her name nor what she was: then  
if this were all, what could be more suspicious: but  
you of the Jury, heere is further evidence to satis-  
fye you, though if but this in my conscience in this  
case I thinke it sufficient, that here are severall wit-  
nesses abone two or threes, who say vpon their  
othes directly she is the woman, not such as sweare  
rashly or indiscreetly, but say as first these her from  
many other women, and as if God himselfe would  
give because to put trust in their othes, sent ano-  
ther woman before, who was hainously suspected  
for the fact, whom they refused to be she, and indeed  
was proued after by other testimony it was not:  
and as if by their othes, though she was hidden in  
darknesse, he would bring her once to her deserved  
shame. When my Lord leaning the Jury to their  
discretions, Sir Henry Mountegue vjdged, that  
besides all this, hauing bene severall times exami-  
ned where she had liued, and had bestowed her  
selfe from a yeare after, to a quarter, nay from a  
quarter to a very moneth, nay from a moneth to a  
day before she came to mistresse Killingworth, she  
could giue account of all but till then: & which beside  
her confession vnder her owne hand, was approued  
by maister Hicock, Clarke of New-gate, when  
my Lord Cheife Justice, rising from his seate a-  
gaine, gave Sir Henry Mountegue a worthy com-  
mendations for his industry and laboꝝ in this case,  
protesting



of Elizabeth Abbot.&c.

professing that since he was acquainted in the state of such business, he neuer hears examinations better gathered, a course better shifted, nor a mutther ströglie discovered: so the Jury brought together, she was by verdit of yt twelve returned guilty, and the next day being Saturday she receiued her sentence.

Yet wirt which time and her death, though the proceedings against her were so Just, the euidence so plaine, and her tryall so gracions, that she had leaue to speake in her one defence, euen what she would, & where it is not ordinarie seene, she was called in to the inner court, euen to the barre where the sojeman of the iurie stood, that my lords and the whole court might plainly heere what she could speake, in her owne excuse, which was nothing but obstinacie the ground of all euill. I can not yet with silence passe ouer, the care which our moste honourable Magistrates, tooke of her soule, labouring by all meanes to haue her make it plaine by confession, which was so cleere by euidence, which shal so euer from hence stop scandalls tongue so speaking against their gouernment and deserued such a Chronicle of a bzaile to recozd their vpyghtnes the Justice of their actions, which ages shold not weare out, nor death deface, but should lue as an example to men, while to the world was left any posteritie. First then, that they sent into the prisō vnto her a reuerend & grane doctoꝝ of diuinitie, who with such strong instances, beaat against the doyes of her harte, that had they not bene made of harder then marbie they had had power to haue broke them open: so marbie peeces sometimes, she not all.

## The apprehension and Execution of

From prison she was conveyed to the place of execution, where before her eyes she saw a high erected gibbet, for her to play her last pyze upon, where both the Shyrenes being, they themselves began of their owne charitable disposition, to perswade her, y<sup>t</sup> to disburthen her conscience, shewd her how neere her death she was, pointed to her towards the house where Mistress Killingworth dwelt, and bad her let the sight of that where she had committed so foule a fact, be a remembrance to haue her cleanse her soule & saue her vpon her knees then in the Cart to offer her prayers to god, that he would be pleasd to open her haile, and make her fit for him in this her houre of death: which prayers as they directed her, she saide, but still (oh grefeous obstinacy) she persisted in her deniall of being any way guiltie of the fact, acquainted with the house, or knowne to Mistress Killingworth, which confidence of hers so moued the Shyrenes, that one of the road presently to satisfie my Lord Maior how she stil persueued pleading her innocency, whilie the other caused her to be loosed out of the Cart, & conveyed her into Cree-Church, ouer against the place where she suffered, and thither sent for all those who gaue euidence against her: first charging them not vpon the loue they bare to their owne soules, to view her well, whether she were the woman or no, or whether vpon better consideration had since by any means of heare they did but yet thinke they had mistooke themselves, It coulde be any way no impeachment to them but would reioyce the world, saue the life of a condemned creature, & deserue their great commendation: when they all againe testified

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of Elizabeth Abbot. &c.

as they did hope for blisse in heauen, and by the help  
of heauen comfort on earth, this is the woman  
fetcht by drink, this is the woman fetcht the stocks  
for the bands lay at Mr. Killingworths, fetcht  
coales, and lighted a candle (with all their testimo-  
nies as before) when presently they turned to her &  
began her now upon that she heard, yet to cleere her  
conscience and to assure her selfe that with going  
with a charg'd soule, and smotherd sinnes to her  
grane, there was no help to be looked for of her, but  
from above, and that she wold yet tell whither she  
knew Mr. Killingworth, or if she shamed to o-  
pen that sinne, that she wold but discover who  
was partaker with her in the roberie & he might,  
be found, or what manner of man he was, and pro-  
mised her recompence that he should haue no hurt,  
neither of which by all the perswasions that might  
be, could she be once brought to confesse: by which  
it is euident, the deuill whom she serued, had fully  
hardned her heart, & she that would die unpurging  
her soule of one sinne, it is to plaine she was guiltie  
of the other. So she was presently brought  
from the church againe, and there suffered  
Execution.

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